

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 RSC-01

AGR-10 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OIC-02 /143 W

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TAGS: EAGR ECOSOC UNGA

SUBJ: ECOSOC RESUMED 57TH SESSION;

ITEM 6(A); WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

1. AT PM. SESSION, THE REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WAS INTRODUCED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL JOHN HANNAH. DR. HANNAH OPENED BY SAYING THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED A ROLE IN THE WFC ONLY BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THAT THE PROBLEM OF FEEDING ALL PEOPLE WHATEVER THEIR RACE, COLOR, RELIGION OR POLITICS IS MANKIND'S FIRST CHALLENGE.

2. HE THEN CALLED ATTENTION TO THE THREE BASIC DOCUMENTS WHICH DEFINE THE PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE. NAMELY, THE ASSESSMENT, THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM AND THE REPORT OF THE THIRD PREPCOM. DR. HANNAH THEN SAID THAT THE WFC HAD ACCOMPLISHED MUCH MORE THAN COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED BY THE MOST OPTIMISTIC. THE WORLD REQUIRES MORE FOOD PRODUCTION, BETTER FOOD SECURITY, AND FOOD RELIEF FOR THE POOR AND HUNGRY. HE BELIEVES THAT THE WFC HAS MADE IMPORTANT MOVES IN PROVIDING A REMEDY WITHOUT WHICH GLOBAL FAMINE BECOMES A UNACCEPTABLE FACT.

3. DR. HANNAH EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE FOCUS OF THE NATIONAL
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PRESS, RECALLING THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS MANDATED TO LOOK AT

THE MEDIUM-TERM (1977-1980) AND AT LONG-TERM (1980--1990). TO BE SURE EVENTS EVOLVING SINCE THE GA'S DECISION TO VOTE A WFC HAVE INTERVENED SHORT-TERM URGENCY. HOWEVER, THAT URGENCY SHOULD NOT BE THE BASIS OF A JUDGMENT ON THE SUCCESS OR THE FAILURE OF A MEETING CONCERNED WITH DIFFERENT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND A TOTALLY DIFFERENT TIME-FRAME. HE THEN SAID THAT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF NORTH AMERICAN RESERVES WHICH FOR 40 YEARS HAD BEEN A GLOBAL BUFFER-STOCK HAD RESULTED IN PROFOUND CONSEQUENCES FOR THE WORLD AS A WHOLE. UNDOUBTEDLY, IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE SYG MAREI WAS CORRECT IN CONCLUDING THAT THE WFC ELICITED WIDE-SPREAD INTEREST IN HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. ANY INTEREST ESCALATED TO GENUINE CONCERN AND ACTION WAS A REAL ACCOMPLISHMENT WHICH MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED.

4. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER US REP (KITCHEN) THANKED ALL PARTICIPANTS, SECRETARIAT AND GOVERNMENTAL FOR THEIR STRENUOUS EFFORT AT TOME AND SUGGESTED THAT ECOSOC IMMEDIATELY CONCENTRATE UPON THE MECHANICS OF DEALING WITH THE REPORT, AS OPPOSED TO THE ACTIVE, BUT LETHAL OPTION OF SECOND GUESSING THE MOST SENSITIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS CONTAINED IN 21 OF THE 22 RESOLUTIONS BEFORE THE COUNCIL. HE INDICATED THAT THE REPORT WAS SO DRAWN THAT IN FACT IF ECOSOC ENDORSES THE SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS CONTAINED IN RESOLUTIONS 1 THROUGH 20 IN CONSEQUENCE OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL AGREEMENTS REACHED AT ROME, ECOSOC COULD CONFINE ITSELF TO THE ENABLING ACTIONS REQUIRED IN PARAS 1, 4(A), AND 11 OF WFC RES 22.

5. THERE FOLLOWED AN INTERMINABLE LENGTHY DEBATE WITH THE FRENCH REGRETTING THE HASTE WITH WHICH RES 22 WAS FORMULATED AND EXPRESSING A DESIRE TO REOPEN THAT RES, THE JAMAICANS RAISED A NUMBER OF PICAUNE ISSUES WHICH COULD HAVE THREATENED THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT ROME.

6. USDEL REPEATEDLY REJECTED THESE EFFORTS AND INSISTED THAT ECOSOC SHOULD NOT UNDERTAKE A POSITION CONTRAVENING THAT OF OUR INITIAL INTERVENTION. WE RECEIVED STRONG SUPPORT FROM EGYPT, UK, ALGERIA, SWEDEN AND BELATEDLY, MEXICO AND INDIA.

7. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, PRESIDENT KARHILO CONCLUDED THAT THE

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LARGE MAJORITY OF ECOSOC MEMBERS WERE NOT DESIROUS OF REOPENING SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. THEREFORE, ECOSOC WOULD BE RECONVENED ON NOVEMBER 29 TO DISCUSS THE PROCEDURE NECESSARY TO MOVE REPORT TO THE GA. IN INTERIM, HE PROPOSED THAT CONSULTATIONS BE HELD IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE WORK. SUBSEQUENT TO ADJOURNMENT, MIN-COUN INSISTED TO MOST ACTIVE DELS THAT CONSULTATIONS BE CONFIED TO ACTION ENCUMBERED UPON ECOSOC; SPECIFICALLY PARA 1, 4(A) AND 11 OF WFC RES 22.

THE PAKISTANIS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT MORE SPECIFIC RES
NEEDS TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR RES 13 EVEN AFTER DETAILED
EXPLANATION GIVEN FOR NATURE AND SUBSTANCE OF PRESENT
DRAFT RES.

8. A NUMBER OF DELS HAVE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US WILL
SEIZE INITIATIVE IN "LEADING" ECOSOC TO EXPEDITIOUS ACTION
IN RESPECT OF WFC REPORT.

FYI: HANNAH AFTER DETAILED CONSULTATIONS WITH USUN
DID UNUSUALLY SKILLFUL JOB OF IMPLYING MAXIMUM SIZE
OF COUNCIL AND DELINEATING MEMBER COUNTRIES WHOSE
MEMBERSHIP NECESSARY TO EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF COUNCIL.
AFTER SESSION, US QUIETLY, BUT FIRMLY FOLLOWED UP
BY SUGGESTING SMALL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL IS A
SINE QUA NON. WE DEFERRED FROM A SPECIFIC NUMBER, BUT
HINTED THAT 18 TO 20 WOULD BE OPENING POINT OF NEGOTIATIONS.
THIS WOULD ENABLE US TO GIVE UP 4 TO 7 SEATS BEFORE THE
ISSUE OF OPTIMUM SIZE IS JOINED.

OTHER DELS ARE ALREADY THINKING OF MEMBERSHIP TOTALLING
44 TO 54.

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